



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Green Mountain National Forest
Manchester Ranger District

www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl

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File Code: 1950

Date: April 9, 2013

**Dorset Peru Integrated Resource Project
Final Environmental Assessment
Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact**

Dear Interested Members of the Public:

I am pleased to inform you that the Forest Service has completed the Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA) for the Dorset Peru Integrated Resource Project. The project area is located primarily in the towns of Dorset and Peru with the remaining portions in the towns of Manchester and Winhall, Vermont, within the Mettawee River, Battenkill River, Otter Creek, and West River watersheds. This project was initiated in December 2007, and since then we have been engaged with you to develop management activities that will best move the landscape within the Dorset Peru Integrated Resource project area towards desired conditions provided for in the Green Mountain National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

I appreciate the amount of time, thought, and effort that has been invested in this project by both Forest Service employees and interested people like you. After the review of the Final EA and supporting documents together with public comments and suggestions I received to improve the project, I have decided to select the Proposed Action (Alternative B) for implementation. The proposed action includes activities to improve wildlife and fish habitat, enhance forest health, provide timber products, control non-native invasive plants, restore soil and water conditions, increase recreation and scenery viewing opportunities, address travel system needs (trails and roads), and protect or enhance heritage resource sites.

Enclosed you will find the Dorset Peru Project Final EA, the Decision Notice, and Finding of No Significant Impact which provides the rationale for my decision, and the *Preliminary Environmental Assessment 30-Day Comment Period: Comment Content Analysis and Response to Comments* that discloses how your comments were addressed in the final phase of the analysis process. These documents and other supporting information are also posted on our website at: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=32091

This decision is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 215 (*Notice, Comment, and Appeal Procedures for National Forest System Projects and Activities*). The appeal must be filed (regular mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, or express delivery) with the Appeal Deciding Officer and addressed to:

Appeal Deciding Officer, Colleen Madrid
Attn: Appeals & Litigation
USDA, Forest Service, Eastern Region
626 E. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202



You may send a facsimile of your appeal to 414-944-3963 (FAX number) or via e-mail at: appeals-eastern-regional-office@fs.fed.us.

The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered appeals are: 7:30 am to 4:00 pm (central time), Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic appeals must be submitted in plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc or .docx), portable document format (.pdf) or other Microsoft Office-compatible formats. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an electronic message, a verification of identity will be required. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Appeals, including attachments, must be filed within 45 days from the publication date of the legal notice announcing the decision for the Dorset Peru Project in the *Rutland Herald*, (Rutland, VT), the newspaper of record. Appeals received after the 45-day appeal period will not be considered. The publication date in the *Rutland Herald* is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal. Those wishing to appeal this decision should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Only those individuals or organizations who submitted comments during the formal 30-day notice and comment period for the Dorset Peru Project Preliminary Environmental Assessment may appeal this decision specified at 36 CFR 215.6. As a minimum, the notice of appeal must meet the appeal content requirements at 36 CFR 215.14(b):

1. Appellant's name and address, with a telephone number, if available;
2. Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the appeal);
3. When multiple names are listed on an appeal, identification of the lead appellant and verification of the identity of the lead appellant upon request;
4. The name of the project or activity for which the decision was made, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the date of the decision;
5. The regulation under which the appeal is being filed (part 36 CFR 215);
6. Any specific change(s) in the decision that the appellant seeks and rationale for those changes;
7. Any portion(s) of the decision with which the appellant disagrees, and explanation for the disagreement;
8. Why the appellant believes the Responsible Official's decision failed to consider the substantive comments; and
9. How the appellant believes the decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy.

Questions regarding the Dorset Peru Project Final EA, my decision, or the appeal process; or requests to review the project planning record filed at the Manchester Ranger District office may be directed to Melissa Reichert, Project Team Leader; USDA Forest Service; 231 North Main Street; Rutland, VT 05701 (mail); 802-747-6766 (facsimile); mmreichert@fs.fed.us (email); or call Ms. Reichert directly at 802-747-6754 (phone).

Thank you for your interest in the Dorset Peru Project and management of the Green Mountain National Forest.

Sincerely,

/s/ William F. Jackson
WILLIAM F. JACKSON
District Ranger

Enclosures (3)